



## E-Legislative Update

March 1, 2010

We are in the eighth week of the legislative session. Over the weekend of February 27th, Senate and House Ways and Means committees heard and voted on a number of bills to meet the March 1<sup>st</sup> fiscal committee cut-off date. Also during that weekend, the entire Senate and House chambers convened to vote on bills for final passage.

You can [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

### Week Seven Highlights:

The Senate voted to suspend most of Initiative 960, and unveiled its transportation and supplemental operating budgets. To raise additional revenue, the Senate proposed an increase in the cigarette tax and a three-tenths of a cent increase in the state sales tax. In addition, a number of important bills to increase revenue had public hearings, including in Senate Ways and Means, SB 6873 - Increasing state revenues to preserve funding for essential public services by preventing abusive tax avoidance transactions, narrowing or eliminating certain tax preferences, and providing equitable tax treatment. House Ways and Means held public hearings on HB 2824, the 2010 operating supplemental budget.

Because only two weeks of the regular 2010 legislative session are left, committees are both hearing a bill and immediately after voting on the same bill out of committee.

### Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

Senate Ways and Means Committee heard:

- [SB 6875](#) - Providing funding for levy equalization, state need grants, kindergarten programs, and working families' tax exemptions by increasing revenues and facilitating the funding within the state expenditure limit
- [HB 3026](#) - Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws
- [HB 2621](#) - Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K-12 schools

- [SHB 2801](#) - Regarding anti-harassment strategies in public schools

House Ways and Means Committee heard:

- [E2SSB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform
- [SSB 6760](#) - Regarding the basic education instructional allocation distribution formula
- [SB 6593](#) - Transferring the administration of the infant and toddler early intervention program from the department of social and health services to the department of early learning

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

Senate Ways and Means Committee heard or considered for passage out of the committee:

- [SB 6874](#) - Providing funding for the basic health plan by increasing the taxes on certain tobacco products and facilitating the funding within the state expenditure limit
- [SHB 2138](#) - Concerning the use of surplus property for the development of affordable housing

House Ways and Means Committee heard or considered for passage out of the committee:

- [ESSB 6726](#) - Making the governor the public employer of language access providers
- [SB 6263](#) - Establishing the Washington vaccine association
- [SHB 2956](#) - Concerning the hospital safety net

Highlights of legislative discussion in **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

House Committee on Capital Budget heard:

- [SB 6401](#) - Concerning an alternative process for selecting an electrical contractor or a mechanical contractor, or both, for general contractor/construction manager projects

House Ways and Means Committee heard or considered for passage out of the committee:

- [2SSB 6575](#) - Concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy
- [2SSB 6667](#) - Concerning business assistance programs

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview of a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

---

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you. For the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>, both chambers will almost exclusively be working on the floor to debate and vote on bills and creating new state law. Bills heard on the House or Senate Floor change daily and can be monitored by viewing the following pages on the Washington State Legislature Web site:

Senate Floor Activity Report: [click here](#)

House Floor Activity Report: [click here](#)

## Education

### Ways & Means

**3/01/10 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

#### **Public Hearing:**

1. [SHB 2776](#) - Regarding funding distribution formulas for K-12 education.
2. [2SHB 2731](#) - Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.

### Higher Education

**3/05/10 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm D

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

**Work Session:** Interim planning regarding future work on tuition policy.

### Education

**3/05/10 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm A

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

**Work Session:** Interim planning.

---

## Health Care and Human Services

### Health & Human Services Appropriations

**3/02/10 9:00 a.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm B

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

**Work Session:** Discussion of interim planning.

---

## Economic Development

### Community & Economic Development & Trade

**3/03/10 8:00 a.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm C  
John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA

#### **Work Session:**

1. The State of Small Business in 2009.
  - a. The perspective of the Governor's Office.
  - b. Washington Minority Small Business Survey by the UW Foster School of Business.
  - c. Participation by Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses in State Contracts.
  - d. Utilization of the Washington State Linked Deposit Program.

---

## Budget

### Ways & Means

**3/01/10 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm A  
John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA

**Public Hearing:** Bills referred to committee.

#### **Ways & Means**

**3/01/10 3:30 p.m.**

#### **Full Committee**

Senate Hearing Rm 4  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

**Public Hearing:** Continuation of 1:30 p.m. hearing.

**Possible Executive Session:** Bills referred to committee.

**Information is current as of: February 28, 2010.**

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

---

**CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.**

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).